Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Does the honourable member realise that, by making that statement, he hits hard a large section of private practitioners in the country who have acquired some kind of vested rights in the matter?

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: It may not cost them much.

As regards the inspection of pakuthies by the Division Peishkar and other officers, I may assure the House, that whenever I inspect a taluk I have made it a point to meet as many as possible in the pakuthy cutcherries and the markets.

Mr. Kalloor Narayana Pillai: ഒരു ഭാഗപത്രംഅനുസരിച്ച് ഒരു നായർ തറവാട് ഒരു സ്ത്രീക്കും അവരുടെ പത്തു സന്താനങ്ങൾക്കും വസ്തു വീതിച്ചു പോക്കുവരവു ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു മുൻപേ ഈ പത്തുപേർക്കും ഡിമാൻഡ് നോട്ടസ് അയക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമുണ്ടോ ?

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: പത്തു പേരുടെയും പേരിലാണ് വസ്തു ഇരിക്കുന്നതെങ്കിൽ പത്തു പേർക്കും നോട്ടീസ് അയയ്ക്കും.

There is only one point more which was referred to by the honourable member Mr. Narayana Aiyar *viz.*, the delay in the issue of sannads. I promise, Sir, that I shall look into the matter when I go to his taluk in the near future.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 10,51,949 under demand I—Land Revenue and Taxes on Income was put and carried. The grant was made.

The House rose for lunch at 1-3 P. M. and re-assembled at 2 P. M. with the President in the Chair.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Sir, I rise to a point of order. Sir, we find a publication placed on the table before us. We do not know who is the author of that publication and who authorised it to be placed on the table.

Mr. M. P. Joseph (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, this memorandum has been prepared by a gentleman who has studied the excise laws of various countries and of this State. The book is placed on the table on my authority to point out the other side of the question.

President: Order, order. The honourable member may move his grant.

DEMAND II—EXCISE.

Mr. M. P. Joseph: Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 6,90,430 under Demand II—Excise.

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Mr. K. M. Kesavan: Sir, I oppose the Demand. My object in doing so is to draw the attention of the House to the manufacture of cocoanut jaggery. We are aware that there is a sugar factory at Thuckalai and sugar is manufactured there from the jaggery taken from the palmyrah trees. Sir, that is possible in South Travancore. But in Central and North Travancore we have not got palmyrah trees but we have only cocoanut trees. From cocoanut trees it is possible that jaggery can be manufactured and even now that manufacture is not extinguished. Till a few years ago it was the custom in this country to freely issue licenses for the manufacture of sweet toddy and cocoanut jaggery; but I do not know why that practice was discontinued by the Department now. Even now, theoretically speaking, license will be granted to those who apply for it. But practically there are very few licensees who carry on this trade. Why that is denied, I do not know. Perhaps it is due to the fear that illicit tapping will be carried on and that sweet toddy will be converted into the other kind of toddy and that illicit distillation might be carried on. I would suggest that free licenses should be issued for the manufacture of sweet toddy the high food value of which has been recognised on all hands. We hear that very recently the Bombay Government have adopted a policy of encouraging the manufacture of sweet toddy. We are already importing a great deal of sugar from outside. If we are particular about raising the jaggery from the cocoanut trees, I think it will be possible to manufacture all the sugar that is necessary for the State. That will be a great asset to the Government and at the same time it will be to some extent a solution for unemployment. I am aware that there are about 10,000 tappers in my community and the number will swell if sweet toddy is allowed to be made. From the booklet that was circulated here I find that sweet toddy was used to be taken even from immemorial times. We have got lines in the Vedas to support this statement. Whether we should give credit to what is given in the Vedas, is a matter of opinion. But, somehow I agree with the opinion that so long as sweet toddy does not make a man intoxicated but only invigorates, it may be taken.

Mr. M. Govindan: May I know, Sir, whether sterilised sweet toddy will intoxicate anybody?

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: I am not aware of that.

Sahib Bahadur Abdul Tayel Shaikh Kaderbhoy (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know from the honourable member whether sugar can be made from cocoanut jaggery?

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: Yes.

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Sahib Bahadur Abdul Tayeb Shaikh Kaderbhoy: In that case, why should we be so much afraid of the dumping of Ceylon copra?

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: It is exactly to that point that I am coming. Since there has been the dumping of Ceylon copra into our ports and our cocoanut has lost its original price, we must find out other ways and means for the consumption of cocoanut. Cocoanut is a good food material also. I had been for some time under the "Khune system" of treatmen.....

Mr. V. S. Arumughom Pillai: May I know, Sir, whether jaggery is made from cocoanut.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: Jaggery can be made from sweet toddy taken from cocoanut trees. Cocoanut can also be made part of our food. Those who agree with that opinion might try that and be benefited by that.

Then I have to make another observation with regard to the export duty levied on cocoanut and cocoanut products. It is seen from the report that a duty varying from 5 to 15 per cent. is levied upon different kinds of goods and among these dutiable goods cocoanuts and cocoanut products find a place. I think that after a revision of the Interportal Trade Convention, this duty can be abolished. If a move be made by the Government to revise the Interportal Trade Convention and to abolish this duty, it will alleviate the misery of the people of this land who suffer from economic depression.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I know whether the honourable member refers to duty on exports or imports?

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: Exports.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: I support the Demand. I support also the principle advocated by Mr. Kesavan. It is said that sweet toddy is a good specific for diabetes. It has been suggested by very capable medical men including *Ashtavaidyans* that the taking in of sweet toddy in the early morning is the best specific for all sorts of diabetes. Good honey also is prescribed as a good specific for diabetes. It has been accepted by the best authorities and encouraged elsewhere.

Sahib Bahadur Abdul Tayeb Shaikh Kaderbhoy: May I know whether any toddy can be used for diabetes?

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: I am not a professional man but I know that sweet toddy has been recommended for diabetic patients. As such, sufficient encouragement ought to be given to the free manufacture of sweet toddy.

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As for coco-brandy, we find large quantities of foreign liquor imported into our State. Of late, these quantities are increasing from year to year. If on the other hand coco-brandy can be treated scientifically, and flavoured properly it could replace the foreign liquor that is imported and much revenue can be realised. The duty on coco-brandy has to be lowered considerably. Therefore, sufficient encouragement should be given to the manufacture of coco-brany also.

I understand that the Excise Department is preparing and issuing monthly trade statistics and returns. It is a very valuable document. We find that we have got a very good future for commerce and this journal or statistical report will play an important part. I request Government to supply the members of this House with copies of this journal also monthly, so that we may know the position of Travancore, what all things are grown and manufactured and what all things are exported to places outside.

One or two years back a decent amount was sanctioned for preventing leakage of revenue due to illicit manufacture of liquor and illicit imports of dutiable articles like tobacco. Unfortunately we do not find any appreciable increase in the income though additional staff for this purpose was appointed and continued. If it seems to have proved a failure, as I fear it has, I request Government to abolish the additional staff and save the amount allotted for this additional staff.

With these words I support the Demand.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla : Sir, when just going through the brochure that was placed before us today, I found a number of quotations from the Bible, and the Scriptures. I think I will be the only man in this House who will have some acquaintance with theology. In regard to the quotations from the Bible, without entering into any theological discussion, I want to state only my view of how I interpret the Holy Scriptures. I do not know whether all Christians will agree with me. But I want to make this statement that if any law which exists in any document in any part of the world is not conducive to the progress of society, it is not applicable to us. I feel that a law probably made three thousand years ago for the sake of a primitive people cannot be adequately taken as an authority for us of the twentieth century. If it was in force in that age for that particular people, I do not see how it can be applicable to us now.

Mr. M. P. Joseph : May I know, is the member a believer in the Bible ?

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla : I have to answer this question to my Bishop and not to the Excise Commissioner.

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[Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla]

Sir, I myself have been to Palestine and have travelled through the country. That area is full of grape cultivation and to whichever hotel one goes, wine is offered to him for drink. It is not the manufactured wine that is given, but the wine prepared from grapes that is given to a person for drink. Whenever you sit on a table, the wine is brought to you there and if you refuse to drink it, people there wonder why the wine was not used. After all, the wine prepared from the grapes cultivated there is offered for drink. That wine will not do any harm. Probably, in a place where the Bible was written, some sanctity has to be given to the sort of wine obtaining there. But in a country like India where the Hindus and Mohamedans have a different notion about the wine obtaining here, and when the temperance movement is being attempted to be introduced, I am certainly sorry to note, that the Bible has been quoted as an authority against the introduction of prohibition. Whatever be the teachings in the past, the main idea prevalent in India is to introduce temperance in all parts of the country. I shall be sorry if any religious authority is quoted in support of that law. In the brochure supplied here, there are passages to support as well as to oppose the introduction of prohibition. There is one portion which reads,

> "Give strong drink unto him that is
> ready to perish, and wine unto those
> that be of heavy hearts."

I do not want anybody in Travancore to perish on account of the strong drink taken to by him.

Next I want to deal with a practical experience which I have had, namely the prevalance of some liquor-shops in this country. By liquor shops I mean, sub-shops and I speak from my own experience. During the last occasion while I was living in a part of my constituency, I found a certain gentleman suddenly putting up a sub-shop just opposite to my house. I went across to his shop and asked him under whose authority that shop was set up. He turned round and said that it was a sub-shop for selling toddy and mainly intended to benefit a large number of labourers who halt there for drink. I consulted my friends around me and asked them about the desirability of sending a petition to the Excise Commissioner on the matter. But they said they would not be a party to that, for they feared trouble. Another thing is that if petitions are sent, no attention would be given to them. On enquiry elsewhere I found that there were 8 more shops of that category in that particular place which served different kinds of people. I am afraid, these sub-shops cannot exist without the connivance of the departmental officers. Years ago, I remember a small committee of 3 members

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was appointed by the Excise Commissioner to investigate into and report the cases of sub-shops to the Excise Commissioner. I remember Mr. T. K. Madhavan was in that committee. I also happened to be one among them, because of my interest in temperance movement. I found that if any one were to report a case of sub-shop to the Excise Commissioner, immediately an Assistant Excise Commissioner comes there for investigation. He will have nothing to see. He will see no sub-shop building or sheds or pots in the locality. The Commissioner or his assistant would ask us the necessity for such a petition. In that way, the sub-shops existed in those localities. In fact, we have seen the existence of sub-shops with our own eyes. I have only to submit whether there is no remedy for this state of affairs. Though I do not ask for a complete prohibition at the present time, I request you, Sir, to see that the order of Government is kept. No labourer should be allowed to remain in a toddy shop after a fixed number of hours. That rule should be enforced in all the shops. In this connexion all that I wish to say is that the departmental officers should pay more attention to see that the rules of the department are obeyed by the toddy shop contractors to the fullest extent possible. The general practice that is prevalent in the department should be brought under effective control and obeyed by the contractors as well.

A third point I want to speak about is this. It was also discussed elsewhere, namely, giving the control of salt to private individuals. To my mind, when we are discussing the question of nationalisation of the key industries, I cannot find a better industry than that of salt and which can be taken up by Government. Now, this is in the hands of capitalists. I have also heard that the workers in the salt factories are not being properly treated. This is one of the key industries of the State and I hope that, along with the idea of nationalisation of the key industries, in this country, the question of salt industry can be taken up by Government and worked on proper lines.

Mr. V. S. Arumukhom Pillai : May I know, what is the basis for the statement that the workers in the Salt factories are not being properly treated?

Mr. K. K. Kuruvila : There is no documentry evidence to be advanced. But I have consulted the members of the Council and have ascertained from them that the workers have a real grievance. They are not being properly treated;

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : May I know whether without establishing the ancient practices of the flora and the fauna, of Syria, is it the practice among Christians to take to wine in a larger measure?

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President : That is wandering away from the point.

Miss Thressia Kora : Sir, in supporting the motion, I wish to say a few words on the general policy of the Excise Department. It has been generally observed that their policy in administering the Excise Department is to encourage temperance with a view to the final introduction of prohibition. But it is as clear as daylight that what the Excise Department does is only to encourage the drink evil in the State. Of course, it does augment the public revenue to no inconsiderable extent. But it is nothing but an immoral revenue. On the one hand, we have schools and colleges, churches and temples to make people lead moral lives. On the other, we have this array of innumerable arrack shops and toddy shops. While we send our boys to the schools in the morning, we send our men to the arrack shops and toddy shops in the afternoon.

Sir, the taluk of Minachil which I have the misfortune or good fortune to represent stands first in male literacy. But it also occupies the first place in respect of this drink habit also. Every day we get reports of cold-blooded murder, robbery and assault from Minachil, all on account of this evil habit. No civilized Government can allow its subjects to go to hell in this manner. With these words, I oppose the Demand.

Mr. Eric Hall (*Travancore Planters*) : Sir, so far we have heard two speakers advocating prohibition. I fear what I have to say now will be a cry in the wilderness. I am against prohibition. I am sure that whisky and similar liquors when taken in moderation cannot do any harm. The abuse of liquor, as is well known to all, has its own bad results but very often the liquor itself is blamed. After all liquor forms a minor part of the bodily sustenance when compared with other items. Although I come from Scotland, I have to say that my experience is different from that narrated by Mr. Kuruvilla. He has placed one aspect of the matter. He referred to grapes. There are grapes which produce very good wine, and wine which is intoxicating. In France also there are the finest grapes which produce wine. The abuse of liquor may have to be brought under effective control. That is what is happening now in Madras and Bombay. The Government of those places find it necessary to protect the people dwelling in the town parts especially from the evil effects of liquor. I also realise that the population of Madras and Bombay may require such protection. I take it that the population of Travancore has not reached a stage of degradation necessitating such protection. As soon as such a stage is envisaged the ExciseDepartment and the Government will no doubt step in to protect the people of the country from the evil influences of

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drink. T: is is not the case in Travancore yet. I have travelled in many parts of India and comparing those parts with Travancore, there is not the same degree of evil resulting from liquor here. To my mind, the time is not ripe for the introduction of prohibition in Travancore. This policy seems to be one of encirclement of a man's habits. It is wrong on principle to restrict as to what a man shall eat or drink There is no independence. It is wrong to enact legislation against the independence of individuals as to what he should drink and what he should not drink.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : സർ. ഈ ഡിമാൻറ് പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നതിന് എനിക്ക് വളരെ സന്തോഷമാണ്. ഈ വാദപ്രതിവാദത്തിന് നിദാനമായ ചില സാധനങ്ങളുടെ അന്തരികഗുണം കൊണ്ടുള്ള ലഹരിയാൽ ഞാൻ ഇപ്രകാരം പ്രസ്താവിക്കുന്നതാണെന്ന ആരും തെറ്റിദ്ധരിക്കയില്ലെന്ന വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ മുതലെടുപ്പിനുള്ള പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട ഒരു വകുപ്പാണിത്. എങ്കിലും ഇതിലെ ഒരു പ്രധാന വരുമാനമാകുന്ന മദ്യത്തിന്റെ ദുഷ്യവശങ്ങളെ കുറിച്ചു ചിന്തിക്കുമ്പോൾ ആ കാര്യം ശരിയായി പരിപോഷിപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുപോകേണ്ട ഒന്നാണെന്ന് എനിക്ക് അഭിപ്രായമില്ല. മദ്യവ്യാപാരവിഷയത്തിലുള്ള ന്യൂനതകൾ പോക്കുന്നും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ പ്രവർത്തന ദുഷ്യങ്ങളെ പരിഹരിച്ചും ഈ കാര്യത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് കൂടുതൽ ശ്രദ്ധപതിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതിന്റെ ആവശ്യകത മാത്രമാകുന്നു എനിക്ക് ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിക്കുവാനുള്ളത്. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ആകെ നൂറ്റന്പത് വിദ്യാലയങ്ങളുള്ളപ്പോൾ ഷാപ്പുകളും ഉപഷാപ്പുകളുമായി ൪൪൬ എണ്ണമുണ്ട്. മനുഷ്യനെ മനുഷ്യനാക്കി വളർത്തുന്ന വിദ്യാലയങ്ങളെക്കാൾ മനുഷ്യനെ അധമനാക്കിത്തീർക്കുന്ന ആലയങ്ങളാണ് ഇവിടെ അധികമായി. കാരണമെന്തെന്നുള്ളത് അഭിമാനകരമാണെന്ന ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് അദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻ ഈ പദവിയിൽ പ്രവേശിക്കുന്നതിന് മുൻപായി ഇന്നത്തെ ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറിയായിരിക്കുന്ന മാന്യൻ എക്സൈസ് വകുപ്പിന്റെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷനായി വന്നതോടുകൂടി എക്സൈസ് അധികാരികളുടെ അറിവോടുകൂടി വ്യാജവ്യാപാരം നടത്തുന്ന സംപ്രദായങ്ങളെ നീക്കം ചെയ്യുവാനുള്ള നടപടികൾ നടത്തിത്തുടങ്ങിയിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ ശരിയാകുന്നതിനുമുൻപായി അദ്ദേഹം അവിടെനിന്നു മാറി. അദ്ദേഹത്തെ തുടർന്നു വന്നയാൾ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ

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പല ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിലും ഇരുന്ന് പ്രായോഗിക പരിജ്ഞാനം ലഭിച്ച ഒരു മഹാനാണ്. അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ കാലത്തും ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ തുടർന്നുവരുന്നു എന്നു കാണുന്നതിൽ ഒരനുഭവസ്ഥനെന്ന നിലയിൽ എനിക്കും സന്തോഷമുണ്ട്.

ഇതിനു മുൻപ് ശ്രീമൂലം അസംബ്ളിയിൽ ഒരു വാദപ്രതിവാദമുണ്ടായസന്ദർഭത്തിൽ എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ അഴിമതികളെപ്പറ്റി ഇന്നത്തെ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ സമ്മതിക്കയുണ്ടായല്ലൊ. സാധാരണയായി രാജ്യത്തു നിലവിലിരിക്കുന്ന ഇത്തരം അഴിമതികളെ ഇപ്രകാരം തുറന്നു സമ്മതിക്കുവാൻ സന്നദ്ധതയുള്ള ആളുകൾ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥലോകത്തുണ്ടായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ ഇന്നുകാണുന്ന അഴിമതികളിൽ പലതും മാറുവാൻ സാധിക്കുമായിരുന്നു. താൻ ഒരു പൊതുജനസേവകനാണെന്നുള്ള ബോധത്തോടുകൂടി ജനപ്രതിനിധികളോടു സത്യം തുറന്നു പറഞ്ഞു പരിഹാരം നേടാൻ ഇദ്ദേഹം കാണിക്കുന്ന സന്നദ്ധത മാതൃകാപരമാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ട് ആ പ്രസ്താവനയിൽ ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ അഭിനന്ദിക്കുകതന്നെ ചെയ്യുന്നു. എങ്കിലും ഈ രാജ്യത്തുള്ള ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിൽ പലതിനേയുംകാൾ കൂടുതൽ കൈക്കൂലിയും അക്രമങ്ങളും നടക്കുന്നതു എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ കീഴ്സിൽബന്ധികളുടെ ഇടയിലാകുന്നു. അവർ സാധാരണ മനുഷ്യരോടല്ലാ ഇടപെടുന്നതു്. മനുഷ്യരെ ബോധംകെടുത്തുന്ന ബന്ധങ്ങളോടും അതുപോലെയുള്ള മറ്റു നികൃഷ്ടവസ്തുക്കളോടുമാണല്ലൊ അവർ ഇടപെടുന്നതു്. മറ്റാരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലും ഇല്ലാത്തമാതിരി ചില ശതമാനക്കണക്കുകളനുസരിച്ചാണു് അവിടെ കൈക്കൂലി മേടിക്കുന്നതു്. ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു ഷാപ്പിൽനിന്നു ഒരു തുക പിരിച്ചെടുത്താൽ അതിൻെറ ഇത്ര ശതമാനം പൂണിനും ഇത്ര ശതമാനം പെറിയഫീസർക്കും ഇങ്ങിനെ മേലോട്ടു അസിസ്റ്റൻറു കമ്മീഷണർവരെ എത്തുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു കാണാൻ കഴിയും. ആവക സംഗതികളെ ഇല്ലായ്മചെയ്യുന്നതിൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു അദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻ കൂടുതൽ ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്.

മറെറാരു സംഗതി ചെത്തു നിറുത്താൻ പാടില്ലായെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. ഇവിടെയുള്ളവർക്കു വേണ്ടിടത്തോളം ആഹാരം ലഭിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു നമുക്കറിയാം. എന്നാൽ കൂലിവേലക്കാർ പലപ്പോഴും പ്രധാനമായ ഒരാഹാരസാധനം ആയിട്ടാണു് കള്ളിനെ ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതു്. ആ സ്ഥിതിയുള്ള രുചിയും അത്യധികം പോഷകാംശവുമുള്ള കള്ളു് ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതിൽ വലിയ തെറ്റുണ്ടെന്നു പറയാനില്ല. പാലും വെള്ളവും

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ഒന്നാന്തരം പാനീയങ്ങളാണെന്നു നമുക്കറിയാം: എന്നാൽ അതിരിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലത്തിന്റേയും സമയത്തിന്റേയും ഭേദംകൊണ്ടു ഇവ രണ്ടും ഉപയോഗിക്കുവാൻ കൊള്ളാതെ ദുഷിക്കുന്നതുപോലെ കള്ളും ദുഷിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണു് അതിന്റെ ഉപയോഗത്തെ നാം ഇത്രമേൽ വെറുക്കുന്നതു്. ഇന്നു് പല സ്ഥലത്തും കൃത്രിമക്കള്ളുപോലും വിൽക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. കള്ളിന്റെ മട്ടും വിനീഗറും സോഡാപ്പൊടിയും എല്ലാം ചേർത്തു ധാരാളം കൃത്രിമക്കള്ളു് വിൽക്കുന്നുണ്ടു. അതുപോലെ തന്നെ, ആ സമയത്തുള്ള വ്യാപാരങ്ങളും അസാന്മാർഗികമായ ചില നാഹചര്യങ്ങളുണ്ടാക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതിനു സംശയമില്ല.

Mr. C. N. Thuppan Namboodiri : ആ കൃത്രിമക്കള്ളുപയോഗിച്ചുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന കള്ളുകുടിച്ചാൽ തലയ്ക്കു പിടിക്കുമോ?

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan :തലയ്ക്കുംപിടിക്കും, ഉദരരോഗം ഉണ്ടാക്കുകയും ചെയ്യും. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ കൃത്രിമവ്യാപാരം നിറുത്തി കള്ളു് അതിന്റെ ശരിയായ നിലയിൽ നൂക്കിച്ചു വ്യാപാരം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനായി നിഷ്കർഷിച്ചു പരിശ്രമിച്ചാൽ കാലക്രമേണ ശരിയായ മാർഗ്ഗത്തിൽത്തന്നെ, ഇവിടത്തെ ലഹരിസാധനങ്ങളും നിറുത്താൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്നു എനിക്കു പൂർണ്ണമായ ഉറപ്പുണ്ടു്.

Mr. M. Sultan Muhiadheen : ഉപ്പു വിതരണവിഷയത്തിൽ പല പരാതികളുമുണ്ടു്. ലൈസൻസികളും ഉപ്പുവ്യാപാരത്തെ അവരുടേയും അവരുടെ ചാർച്ചക്കാരുടേയും കുത്തകയാക്കിത്തീർത്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. നിലവിലിരിക്കുന്ന കോട്ടാസിസ്റ്റംമൂലം കച്ചവടക്കാർക്കു ആവശ്യംപോലെ ഉപ്പു ലഭിക്കുന്നില്ല. കച്ചവടക്കാർക്കു അവർ അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്ന സമയത്തു ആവശ്യംപോലെ ഉപ്പു കിട്ടുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ള പരാതിയുമുണ്ടു്. ലൈസൻസി ഉപ്പു കൊടുക്കുവാൻ നിഷേധിക്കുന്ന കച്ചവടക്കാർക്കു് ഗവണ്മെന്റു സേൽസിൽ നിന്നും ആവശ്യമുള്ള ഉപ്പു കൊടുക്കുവാൻ പ്രത്യേക ഏർപ്പാടു ചെയ്യണം. ഉപ്പു നിർമ്മാണം ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും ഏറെറടുത്തു നടത്തുന്നപക്ഷം ഗവണ്മെന്റിനു തന്നെ അതു വളരെ ആദായമുള്ള ഒരു സംഗതിയായിത്തീരും. അതുപോലെ തന്നെ, (Paniwar) പണിവാർ സ്കീം കൊണ്ടു് ലൈസൻസികളും നല്ല ഉപ്പുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ വേണ്ടത്ര ശ്രദ്ധ പതിപ്പിച്ചുകാണുന്നില്ല. ലൈസൻസികളും നല്ല ഉപ്പു് ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ അധികാരികളും ഉപ്പളങ്ങളും ക്കുടക്കുടെ സന്ദർശിച്ചു് ഉപ്പു് പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതിൽ കുറെക്കൂടി ശ്രദ്ധ പതിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്.

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Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Sir, I support the demand. I have not been very much scared by the publication that has been put before me. Any way may I point out that the copy of the Administration Report of the Excise Department has not been made available to us.

Mr. M. P. Joseph: It was not printed, Sir. There was some trouble in printing.

President: I am informed that there are many appendices attached to that document and so there was some delay in printing. As soon as it is printed, it will be made available to the honourable members.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Any how it needs publication. This liquor Smriti that has been put before me is very pleasant reading and I do not think the morality of the members will be prejudically affected by reading such a publication. Anyway I appeal to the non-official members of the House to take a very bold view of things, to take up the responsibility for their statements. Whether by hearing catch words—these views are my personal views and I do not want to embarrass any organisation or party—at a time when other Governments do feel that they have taken hot potatoes of prohibition and when they are compelled to impose many forms of taxation, both direct and indirect it is high time we should consider whether we should also utter the loose sentiments of prohibition which flew across the continent of America along with President Wilson's 14 points. The world has grown older by many years now. What has been the experience of America? Even during the period of prohibition, they did not stop drinking. By that it should not be taken that I am an exponent of anti-prohibition. Any way, so long as we are unable to find an alternative source of income, I think it will be definitely unwise to impose direct taxation upon the innocent peasant who has already been over-taxed. Therefore, I am decidedly of opinion that we must aim at temperance work which does not harm the Government revenue and benefits the people.

Regarding salt, all sections of the House, except those who have any direct or indirect interest with the salt business, are of opinion that the salt industry should be nationalised. In that connection I remember that when Mr. M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar was the Excise Commissioner he was carrying on some experiment with the help of the Professor of Chemistry to analyse and test salt now produced in the pans. I think the present Commissioner is continuing the useful work once taken up by Mr. Nilakanta Aiyar.

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Regarding sub-shops—thanks to Mr. Kuruvilla for the expression—I do not think the evil is so rampant now as of late I know of instances where that has been very rigorously stopped and I know of many Excise employees who have come to grief because of the present Commissioner who has a judicial training and ministerial dignity and I know of the helplessness of those who have approached me to approach the head of the department. My political label was good enough excuse for me not to approach him. That is how I came to know about it. There is better discipline now and much less of the evil complained of by my esteemed leader Mr. Kuruvilla.

Mr. E. K. Kuripe : സർ, ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ ഗവ ൺമെൻറിനു കിട്ടുന്ന ആദായത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ ആദായം ഇതിലെ ഉദ്യോഗ സ്ഥന്മാർക്കു കിട്ടുന്നുവെന്നു പറയാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. മറ്റു ഡിപ്പാർട്ട മെൻറുകളിൽ കീഴുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ മാത്രമെ കൈക്കൂലി വാങ്ങുന്നുള്ളൂ. എന്നാൽ ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരൊഴിച്ചു മിയ്ക്കവാറും എല്ലാ വരും കൈക്കൂലി വാങ്ങുന്നുവെന്നുള്ളതു സംശയംകൂടാതെ പറയാം. ഈ കൈക്കൂലി ഗവൺമെൻറിൻെറ ആദായത്തെത്തന്നെ നഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്തു കയാണുചെയ്യുന്നതു. കൈക്കൂലി നിറുത്തുന്നതിനു ഇവിടത്തെ ഭരണക ർത്താവുതന്നെ നേരിട്ടു ശ്രദ്ധപതിപ്പിക്കണമെന്ന് ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷി ക്കുന്നു. ആലുവാ—മൂന്നാർ റോഡിൽ പല സ്ഥലത്തും പരിശോധിക്കു ന്നതിനായി എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ രഹസ്യമായി നേരിട്ടുവന്നാൽ അവിടെ എക്സൈസ് പൂൺസ് പരസ്യമായി കൈക്കൂലി വാങ്ങു ന്നതുകാണാം. അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ കാരണമായി ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്നു എനിക്കറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. കൂടുതൽ സംഖ്യ കൈക്കൂലി കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായി വരുന്നതു വൃക്ഷക്കരം കൊടു ക്കാതെ വൃക്ഷങ്ങൾ ചെത്തിക്കേണ്ടിവരുന്ന അവസരത്തിലാണ്. വൃ ക്ഷക്കരം വേണ്ടെന്നുവച്ചാൽ ഈ കൈക്കൂലി കുറയും. അതിനുപകരം ഷാപ്പുകരം കൂടുതൽ ലേലത്തുകയ്ക്കു വിൽപ്പിക്കുവാനും കഴിയും.

Mr. M. Sutan Muhiadheen : ആലുവാ—മൂന്നാർറോഡിൽ കൈക്കൂലിവാങ്ങിക്കുന്നതു് ആരിൽനിന്നാണ്?

Mr. E. K. Kuripe : ഡ്രൈവറന്മാരുടെ കയ്യിൽനിന്നാണ് കൈക്കൂലിവാങ്ങുന്നതു്.

സർ, രാഷ്ട്രീയപ്രക്ഷോഭണം മൂലവും സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനം മൂലവും പല കൺട്രാക്ടറന്മാർക്കും നഷ്ടം വന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. അവർക്കു ഗവ

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[Mr. E. K. Kuripe.]

ഗവൺമെൻറ് എന്തെങ്കിലും സഹായം ചെയ്തുകൊടുത്തില്ലെങ്കിൽ മേലാൽ കൂടുതൽ സംഖ്യയ്ക്ക് ഷാപ്പുകൾ പോകുമോ എന്നുള്ളതു് സംശയമാണ്. അപ്രതീക്ഷിതമായ അവസരങ്ങളിൽ ഗവൺമെൻറിൻെറ സഹായത്തെ പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുകൂടിയാണ് സാധാരണയായി കൂടുതൽ തുകയ്ക്കു കൺ ട്രാക്ടർമാർ ഷാപ്പുകൾ പിടിക്കുന്നതു.

Mr. M. P. Joseph: Sir, I have heard the criticisms levelled at my department from different parts of the House. Some of them are useful and informative, but others are not well-informed or correct. The three main points adverted to by the members who spoke are in regard to corruption, prohibition, and nationalisation of the salt industry. I would take up corruption first because we have been hearing much of it during the Assembly time and now. Government are more concerned and more anxious than the honourable members of the House about the integrity and good conduct of their officers. Every attempt is being made to root out corruption, which is existing in the lower ranks of the service. And I may assure the honourable members that no stone will be left unturned to see that corruption is rooted out. To say that the whole department is seething in corruption is wrong and unwarranted. As Mr. Nilakanta Iyer told us yesterday, there may be a black sheep here and a blacks heep there. Every honest attempt is being made to weed out corruption. Let us see what is the nature of the corruption prevailing in the department? It consists in the illicit manufacture, illicit sale, the illicit tapping of toddy, the illicit running of sub-shops and othes similar malpractices. These practices may have been prevailing once. But soon after Mr. Nilakanta Iyer took charge of the administration of this Department he made an earnest attempt to put down malpractices. And I may say that he has succeeded to a great extent. I followed him up and I am now doing every thing possible to see that corruption and malpractices are put down. I am glad to hear from one honourable member that the Excise Department is doing its level best to put down corruption. Mr. Kuruvilla said that he was doubtful whether the higher officers are not conniving at such malpractices. Now I shall read to him a circular issued by me to all subordinate officers. The circular is as follows: —

> "It has come to the notice of the undersigned that illicit practices, such as, illicit distillation, illicit sales and illicit tapping on a large scale are prevalent in almost all the Excise Divisions in the State. The undersigned has been studying the problem and carefully investigating the matter and is satisfied that these practices are resorted to either with the connivance or consent of the superior

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officers of the department or due to their gross negligence amounting to inefficiency and ineptitude. Such practices have adversely affected the Abkari Revenue and is likely to affect more. The officers are informed that no illegal practice of any description will be allowed and that detection of illicit practices in any Range will automatically bring with it drastic punishment up to dismissal of the officers in charge.

The special C. I. D. staff is being directed to start on a close inspection of various ranges with a view to detection of offences against Abkari Law. The Assistant Excise Commissioners and the Inspectors will consider the C. I. D. Inspector as one among them and render him all necessary help in the detection of offences. The C. I. D. Inspector and staff will be on special duty to stop illicit practices altogether for a period of six months. The existence of illicit practices is the main cause of the charge of corruption levelled against Excise Officers and it is up to the officers to see that this scandal is removed at once and without any delay.

The officers are also warned that the undersigned will hand up those officers who are conniving at or privy to corruptions and illicit practices.

The Assistant Excise Commissioners will issue the necessary instructions to all the Range Inspectors under them.

The C I D. Inspector and staff are expected to make surprise raids".

This circular caused a stir among the officers and I can assure the honourable members that the illicit practices have been reduced to a minimum. Of course, in the out of the way places like Poonjar and Peermade there may be a sub-shop here and there. But I may assure the honourable members that this practice has been put an end to. In this connection I may say that the honourable members also have a duty cast on them. A general sweeping statement that the excise officers are corrupt is easily made. An officer cannot obviously be punished without adducing adequate evidence against him. Mere sweeping statements or hearsay evidence will not be of any avail. If any honourable member thinks that a particular form of corruption is prevailing anywhere he can go to the Excise Commissioner himself and ask him to see that it is put an end to. With your co-operation alone we will be able to put down corruption. This is all what I have to say about corruption.

Now, with regard to prohibition, I have already explained in another connection the policy of Government in this matter. The policy of Government is not prohibition all at once. But it is more a policy of temperance which will lead ultimately to prohibition. Government have been trying several experiments to bring down the consumption of liquor, by raising the duty, by imposing the gallonage fee, by the gradual reduction in the number of shops and

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[Mr. M. P. Joseph.]

by starting 'local option'. We have found after 12 years' experience that all these attempts have proved to be drastic failures. It is for the honourable members to suggest ways and means for introducing prohibition. To my mind, the only feasible method is to educate public opinion. Any reform which has not a public backing is bound to fail. So let every honourable member of this House try to create public opinion that drinking is an evil. If there is adequate public opinion at the back there will be no difficulty in bringing about prohibition. I have no doubt that otherwise it will be another case of failure as in the United States of America, Sweden and Norway. Of course, the British Indian Provinces have attempted prohibition but it is too early to say whether they would succeed or not. In this connection, I will read to the honourable members a statement made by no less a person than the High Commissioner for India, Sir Pheroz Khan Noon. It is this:

> "It is no use" he writes "for a Government, in a fit of piety, to attempt to put a stop to what the people like in questions of food and drink. If Government stop the sale of good liquor it does not mean that no liquor will be consumed. How often does the foolish pigeon shut his eyes in the belief that the cat ceases to see him! People will drink, and if you do not let them drink wholesome liquor they will drink terrible stuff.
>
> "In India you have only to take the bark of a Kikar tree, which contains tannin, put it in an earthen pitcher, put raw sugar and water in it, shut it up and bury it inside a dung-heap outside a village. Even if the police find the pitcher they cannot convict a man, for it will be in no one's possession. The dung-heap is a public place. After a month you take out the pitcher and get your alcohol. Drink it or sell it".
>
> Elsewhere he adduces the familiar arguments:— "If you prevent people from taking the drink they want, there is the risk that they will turn to opium, harmful drugs and dangerous, illicitly brewed liquor. Temperance propaganda and education are the only cure".

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: Is it a necessary qualification for the High Commissioner that he should be an expert in the knowledge of intoxicant drinks?

Mr. M. P. Joseph: Sir, he is a high person and his views are entitled to great weight. Sir, I want the honourable members to go back to their places and to create public opinion in favour of prohibition. Probably many of you are not aware that in Germany and Japan beer is distributed by means of pipes. You have only to put your beer mug at the tap and draw the quantity required.

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Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla : May I know from where the Excise Commissioner got this information ?

Mr. M. P. Joseph : From many people who have gone to those places and had experience in drinking beer in the way mentioned by me. I would sincerely ask the honourable members if they would deny themselves the pleasure of having a glass of light wine or a glass of champagne if offered free. (*Laughter.*) Mr. Kuruvilla said that he has denied the pleasure a hundred times. What I wish to say is that drink is not an evil in itself, but that the evil exists in its abuse. I do not want to deal upon the nutritive quality of toddy and other liquors. But what I want to press before this House is that you should educate public opinion against drink, before launching prohibition.

President : Order, order, the allotted time has lapsed.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 6,90,130 under Demand II—Excise Department, was put and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND NO. III—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Mr. Puthupalli S. Krishna Pillai (*Legal Remembrancer to Government.*) : Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 11,25,100 under Demand III—Administration of Justice.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon (*Trivandrum and Nedumangad cum Chirayinkil*) : Sir, I wish to make a few observations in continuation of what I have made yesterday in regard to the Civil and Criminal administration in the State.

I would again reiterate my emphatic protest against any suggestion of inferiority of our High Court to any courts in British India or elsewhere. Our High Court is as perfect and as well equipped as any other High Court in other parts of India. But, at the same time, I would not forget that it has also some drawbacks, namely, that of delay, and I would suggest that that defect should be remedied as soon as possible, as this has begun to affect very seriously the interests of the people. For that purpose, I would make the following suggestions, which I hope will go to remedy, to some extent, the evil effects of the delay in the working of the administration of that department.

Firstly, I would suggest that the small-cause side and the execution side of the original cases may be separated from the original work and they may be constituted separately for carrying out that side of the work. Nearly almost all the original cases have been decided comparatively in a shorter time than the actual execution of the decrees concerned in those cases. I know of instances in which even after a lapse of twelve years the parties were not able to enjoy the fruits of the decree that they had obtained. I do not blame any officer concerned with the administration of the work.

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